

line 19, change "vellum" to --velum--;

line 20, change "vellum" to --velum--; and

line 21, change "vellum" to --velum--.

Page 32, line 6, change "vellum" to --velum--.

Page 33, line 20, change "vellum" to --velum--.

Page 37, line 10, change "vellum" to --velum--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

In response to the objection of the Office Action concerning the order of the claims, please cancel all existing claims without prejudice or disclaimer. The following new claims are substantially identical to the previously pending claims and have been rearranged in an attempt, to the extent practicable, to group dependent claims together.

Please add the following new claims:

1. ~~21.~~ A method for measuring components of exhaled breath of a subject, comprising the steps of:

causing the subject to exhale into an appropriate apparatus for receiving exhaled breath;

increasing the pressure in the mouth of the subject to a level sufficient to cause the velum of the subject to close and isolate the nasopharynx during exhalation; and

measuring the level of one or more components of the exhaled breath.

2
22. The method of claim 21, wherein said one or more components are selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitric oxide, nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen peroxide, proteins, surfactants, DNA, acetone, ammonia, sulfur compounds, acetylene, carbon monoxide, ethane and pentane.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein said one or more components is nitric oxide.

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24. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of collecting one or more components of exhaled breath prior to said measuring step.

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25. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of monitoring nasal CO₂ to confirm velum closure.

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26. The method of claim 21, wherein the measuring step further comprises the storing of exhaled breath for analysis at a later time.

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27. The method of claim 26, wherein the exhaled breath is stored in a gas collection container.

~~8~~
~~28.~~ The method of claim ~~27~~⁷, wherein the gas collection container is a gas sampling bag.

~~9~~
~~29.~~ The method of claim ~~21~~¹, wherein said one or more components substantially arises from the respiratory tract below the glottis.

~~10~~
~~30.~~ The method of claim ~~29~~⁹, wherein at least about 90% of said one or more components arises from the respiratory tract below the glottis.

~~11~~
~~31.~~ The method of claim ~~29~~⁹, further comprising the step of maintaining a constant flow rate of the exhaled breath of the subject.

~~12~~
~~32.~~ The method of claim ~~31~~¹¹, wherein said constant flow rate is accomplished by a resistance means associated or in flow connection with said receiving apparatus.

~~13~~
~~33.~~ The method of claim ~~32~~¹², wherein said one or more components is nitric oxide.

¹⁴
~~34~~ The method of claim ¹²~~32~~, wherein said maintaining a constant flow rate is effected by providing the subject with an instantaneous display of the pressure of the exhaled breath and the subject adjusts the force of the exhalation to maintain a constant pressure.

¹⁵
~~35~~ An apparatus for measuring components of exhaled breath of a subject, comprising conduit means for receiving the exhaled breath from the subject; means for increasing the pressure in the mouth of the subject to a level sufficient to cause the velum of the subject to close and isolate the nasopharynx during exhalation; and means for measuring the level of one or more components of the received exhaled breath.

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~~36~~ The apparatus of claim ¹⁵~~35~~, further comprising means for monitoring nasal CO₂ to confirm velum closure.

¹⁷
~~37~~ The apparatus of claim ¹⁵~~35~~, further comprising means for providing the subject with an instantaneous display of the pressure of the exhaled breath so that the subject can adjust the force of the exhalation to maintain a constant pressure.

18
38. The apparatus of claim 115, wherein said pressure increasing means is sufficient to substantially exclude the presence of components of exhaled breath arising from the respiratory tract above the velum.

19
39. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said one or more components is selected from the group consisting of carbon dioxide, oxygen, nitric oxide, nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen peroxide, proteins, surfactants, DNA, acetone, ammonia, sulfur compounds, acetylene, carbon monoxide, ethane and pentane.

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40. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said one or more components is nitric oxide.

21
41. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for the storing of exhaled breath for analysis at a later time.

22
42. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the exhaled breath is stored in a gas collection container.

23
43. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the gas collection container is a gas sampling bag.